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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/051,940	01/16/2002	Darin P. Smedberg	M-12143 US	1747

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EXAMINER

HAMMOND, BRIGGITTE R

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2833

DATE MAILED: 10/03/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.
10/051,940

Applicant(s)
Smedberg

Examiner
Brigitte R. Hammond

Art Unit
2833



-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136 (a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on Jul 7, 2003.
- 2a) ☒ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11; 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 9 and 12-22 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above, claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☒ Claim(s) 13-22 is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 9 and 12 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claims _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgement is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
*See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgement is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e).
a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgement is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s). _____ 6) ☐ Other: _____

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DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

1. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

2. Claims 9 and 12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Wright et al. 5,788,531 in view of applicant's admitted prior art in the instant application. Wright et al. disclose a method for dismounting plugs from a printed circuit board, wherein each of the plugs comprises a main body 106,108, and a wire exit 114,116 extending approximately 45 degrees from the main body, the method comprising rotating a first plug so that each first plug wire exit does not interfere with a second plug, and unplugging the second plug from a printed circuit board (not shown, see col. 4, lines 39-44) without affecting the first plug. Wright et al. do not disclose, the plugs being in a two dimensional array and having more than two plugs. However, more than two plugs in a two dimensional array are well known in the art as disclosed by applicant on page 2, lines 6-18. Applicant discloses that it is well known in the art that "PCB includes rows and columns of jacks" for plugs at the end of cables. Therefore it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill to modify Wright et al. by having the plugs in a two dimensional array, since it has been held that mere duplication of essential working parts of a device involves only routine skill in the art. *St Regis Paper Co. V. Bemis Co.*, 193 USPQ 8.

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Allowable Subject Matter

3. Claims 13-21 are allowed.
4. The following is a statement of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter:
regarding claim 13, patentability resides, at least in part, in the wire exit having a second diameter (C) that is a smaller percentage of a pitch (P) than a first diameter (B) of the main body, wherein pitch (P) is the smaller of pitch (Px) along the row and the pitch (Py) along the column, in combination with the other limitations of the base claim, and **regarding claim 21**, patentability resides, at least in part, in the plug having different first and second diameters being approximately 89% and 59% respectively of a pitch between adjacent connector plugs and the plugs can rotate independently by at least 90 degrees to the left or right without interfering with adjacent plugs, in combination with the other limitations of the base claim.

Conclusion

5. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Brownell et al. was cited as a similar angled connector.

Response to Arguments

6. Applicant's arguments with respect to claim 9 and 12 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

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7. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire **THREE MONTHS** from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within **TWO MONTHS** of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the **THREE-MONTH** shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than **SIX MONTHS** from the date of this final action.

8. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Brigitte R. Hammond whose telephone number is (703) 305-0032.


The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Thursday from 7:30 A.M. to 5:00 P.M.

The examiner can also be reached on alternate Fridays.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the Group receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-0956.

Brigitte R. Hammond

September 22, 2003


RENEE LUEBKE
PRIMARY EXAMINER